

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 02931 01 OF 02 210907Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DEAE-00
INR-07 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 AID-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09
NEA-10 SS-15 L-03 /114 W
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O P 210837Z APR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6702
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 2931

FOR DAVID ERNST (S/NM)

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR, UN, NO
SUBJ: CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

REF: ERNST/GOUGH TELECON

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY UNFDAC CONCERNING
NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT OF APRIL 18 PLEDGING
SUPPORT FOR UNFDAC.

ON 18 APRIL 1977 THE NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KNUT
FRYDENLUND MADE A STATEMENT IN THE STORTING (THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMEN)
OUTLINING THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR COMBATING THE IN-
CREASING DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFIC.

THE MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT A KEY ROLE IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S PLANS
WOULD BE THE SUPPORT TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES FOR
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02931 01 OF 02 210907Z

PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL
AND EXECUTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTICS DIVISION IN CO-
OPERATION WITH OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, WITH A VIEW TO SUB-
STITUTE OTHER CASH CROPS FOR OPIUM POPPY GROWING IN SEVERAL ASIAN
COUNTRIES.

AS A STARTING POINT MR FRYDENLUND POINTED TO A RECOMMENDATION FROM

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS AT THE SOURCE OF PRODUCTION. THE RECOMMENDATION CALLS FOR INTER ALIA, "...THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT CULTIVATION OF THE OPIUM WHICH IS SOLD ON THE ILLEGAL MARKET BE COMBATED..."

THE MINISTER AGREED WITH THIS EVALUATION, ADDING THAT THE SPOTLIGHT MUST BE FOCUSED, AS THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE HAD STRESSED, ON THE PRODUCTION SIDE AND ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR LIMITING THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM. NOTING THAT ATTEMPTS IN THAT DIRECTION HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE, MR FRYDENLUND STRESSED THAT THE DRUG PROBLEM WAS GRADUALLY BECOMING SO SERIOUS THAT RENEWED ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE MADE.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN SAID THE FOLLOWING:
ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS, FIRST WITH THE CHIEF OF THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTICS LABORATORY IN GENEVA, DR OLAV J. BRAENDEN OF NORWAY, AND LATER WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, DR J.G. DE BEUS OF THE NETHERLANDS, I TOOK UP THE MATTER AT THE MEETING OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN REYKJAVIK AT THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR. BEHIND THIS INITIATIVE WAS THE EVALUATION THAT A JOINT NORDIC APPROACH WOULD HAVE A BETTER IMPACT IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT THAN ISOLATED NORWEGIAN EFFORTS. AS WILL BE SEEN FROM THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON A NORDIC INITIATIVE TO BE TAKEN THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES IN THIS FIELD. IN THIS CONNECTION I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT TO THE PROPOSAL WHICH WAS PUT FORWARD AT THE MEETING OF THE NORDIC
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 02931 01 OF 02 210907Z

COUNCIL IN HELSINKI BY MR HAUGSTVEDT ABOUT A JOINT NORDIC APPROACH IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS UNDER CONTROL.

ON THIS BASIS WE THEN HAD RENEWED CONTACT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL AT GENEVA, WHERE AN OFFICIAL FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE FORMS FOR POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SEEK NECESSARY INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FUND. LATER THIS MONTH A NEW MEETING WILL BE HELD AT GENEVA BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FUND AND THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AID OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. WHEN THESE ROUNDS OF TALKS ARE FINISHED WE ARE PREPARED TO EVALUATE WHAT THE NEXT STEP WILL BE.

NOW A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THIS FIELD TODAY.

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02931 02 OF 02 210926Z
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INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 2931

FOR DAVID ERNST (S/NM)

THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1971, HAS WITH ITS FAIRLY SMALL FUNDS FINANCED TRIAL PROJECTS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, E.G. THAILAND, WITH A VIEW TO SUBSTITUTE PRODUCTION. THESE TRIAL PROJECTS HAVE HAD POSITIVE RESULTS. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT FARMERS ARE WILLING TO SUBSTITUTE PRODUCTION BECAUSE THE POPPY IS DIFFICULT TO GROW AND ALSO BECAUSE THIS CULTIVATION IS NOT ALL THAT PROFITABLE TO THEM.

THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL IS AT PRESENT FINANCING PROJECTS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AFGHANISTAN, TURKEY, PAKISTAN AND THAILAND, AND A NEW AND LARGER PROJECT IS PLANNED FOR BURMA. THIS IS AN INTEGRATED PROJECT WHICH WOULD BE EXECUTED OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS AND WHICH, APART FROM MEASURES TO SUBSTITUTE PRODUCTION, WILL ALSO INCLUDE HEALTH ASPECTS, EDUCATION, ETC. THE PROJECT WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTICS DIVISION IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 02931 02 OF 02 210926Z

ULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

AND THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, (UNESCO).

THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL AND THE NARCOTICS DIVISION HAVE MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL ITSELF CONTRIBUTE WITH CONSIDERABLE SUMS TO THE PROJECT. THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO DRAFTED DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR WORKING PROGRAMS FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT.

THE REASON WHY WE IN NORWAY HAVE TAKEN A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE BURMESE PROJECT IS CHIEFLY BECAUSE BURMA IS BY FAR THE BIGGEST INDIVIDUAL PRODUCER OF HEROIN IN THE WORLD. THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL BELIEVES THAT ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE HEROIN SOLD ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET -- TO A VALUE OF MORE THAN 100 BILLION DOLLARS -- COMES FROM BURMA.

TO THIS SHOULD BE ADDED THAT THE PROJECT, WHICH SEEMS TO BE WELL-PLANNED AND ENJOYS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT, WILL BE ABLE TO START VERY SHORTLY -- AS SOON AS THE FINANCING IS ENSURED.

IN FEB 1977 THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTICS COMMISSION ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THAT INITIATIVES WITH A VIEW TO SUBSTITUTING PRODUCTION IN AREAS WHERE THE OPIUM POPPY IS CULTIVATED IS NOT ONLY A LINK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, BUT ALSO A CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY CONCERNED, AND THAT SUPPORT SHOULD THEREFORE BE GIVEN TO SUCH INITIATIVES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO USE NORWEGIAN DEVELOPMENT AID FUNDS TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFORTS WHICH COULD PREPARE THE GROUND FOR SUBSTITUTING PRODUCTION OF OPIUM WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 02931 02 OF 02 210926Z

IN THE LIGHT OF THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN REYKJAVIK, THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES TOO WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND. SUCH A JOINT NORDIC INITIATIVE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MEAN A CONSIDERABLE STRENGTHENING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DRUG ABUSE FUND AND COULD, MOREOVER, LEAD TO OTHER COUNTRIES INCREASING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND TO NEW COUNTRIES JOINING IN THE EFFORT. THIS WOULD THEN BE THE BEGINNING OF AN INCREASED AND COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, WHICH COULD LEAD TO REDUCED PRODUCTION AND THEREBY A REDUCTION IN THE ILLEGAL SALE AND ABUSE OF DRUGS. AT THE SAME TIME THE FARMERS IN THE AREAS WHERE PRODUCTION IS SUBSTITUTED SHOULD BE SECURED LEGALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, WHICH IS LIKELY TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION.

A BETTER USE OF DEVELOPMENT AID FUNDS COULD HARDLY BE FOUND.
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